

February 3, 2020

The Board of Ellis County Commissioners met in regular session at 5:00 p.m., Monday, February 3, 2020, in the Commission Chambers, at the Administration Center, 718 Main Street, Hays, Kansas.

Chair Robert "Butch" Schlyer called the meeting to order.

Commissioners present: Chair Robert "Butch" Schlyer, Commissioner Dustin G. Roths, and Commissioner Dean F. Haselhorst.

Also present were Interim County Administrator Darin Myers, County Counselor Bill Jeter, and County Clerk Donna J. Maskus. The meeting opened with everyone standing and saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

No changes were noted on the Order of Business.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

Chair Schlyer asked for any updates to the draft minutes of the regular meeting of January 20, 2020. With no updates given, Chair Schlyer stated that the January 20, 2020, draft minutes are approved as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Haselhorst Second: Roths

To approve the Consent Agenda items A-G as presented, including the following.

Payment Voucher Claims

Payment Voucher Claims dated February 4, 2020, at \$328,404.70.

Purchasing Card Claims dated January 22, 2020 at \$68,575.45.

Payroll Claims

Payroll claims #3, deductions and matches, dated January 31, 2020, at \$158,281.23.

Payroll claims, health insurance, dated January 30, 2020, at \$232,417.45.

Payroll claims #3, dated January 31, 2020 at \$398,401.72.

Agreement of Services with Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas, Incorporated – Darin Myers

The agreement with Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas (DSNWK), Incorporated was reviewed and signed.

Tax Adjustments

Tax roll adjustment numbers 2020000002 through 2020000003.

Disposition: _____ The motion was carried by a voice vote of two to zero.

ISSUES FROM PERSONS NOT ON THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Octoberfest Committee Members John Mader, Tom Lippert, Phil Kuhn, and Janelle Moore expressed thanks for the support with their event. Committee members feel that the event has become more of a family event. They announced that in 2022 Octoberfest will be celebrating their 50th year.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

No new employees were introduced.

NORTHWEST KANSAS PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION – DARIN MYERS, INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission Executive Director Randall Hrabbe discussed the past assistance that they have given to Ellis County. Commissioners discussed that they have not included paying the membership dues for the 2020 Budget with the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission. It was noted that if full member dues were not paid then they would not have a position on their Board.

After discussion, Commissioners asked County Counselor Bill Jeter to draft changes to the membership cost in the current By-Laws for the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development. Jeter will be working with the Commissioners.

Public comment was given by Adam Pray and Sam Polifka with concerns that the County is not paying membership dues with Northwest Kansas Planning and Development.

COUNTY TREASURER – LISA SCHLEGEL

County Treasurer Lisa Schlegel requested salary increases for her Deputy Treasurer and Treasury Operations Manager at a total increase of \$5,800 in yearly salaries. Treasurer Schlegel stated that she has been working on restructuring some of her staff positions and has had an opened staff position since September. Commissioners voiced concerns with her having extra dollars in her budget and in having a current policy in place for the County's Wage and Benefit Committee to handle personnel matters. Also, Commissioners questioned the timing with the County Sales Tax Questions Election being held in April.

Commissioners did have some interest in the merit-based salary system that was discussed.

Chair Schlyer stated "there is a lot of good employees in this county that have all the qualities of your two employees". Therefore, the salary increases requested by Treasurer Schlegel were not approved.

2020 DEPARTMENTAL FIXED ASSET INVENTORY – DONNA J. MASKUS, COUNTY CLERK

Clerk Maskus presented the District Court Office 2020 Fixed Asset Inventory Report. Clerk Maskus stated that now all departments have filed their inventory reports.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIRECTOR JASON KENNEDY

Emergency Medical Services Director Jason Kennedy announced, “that on the coronavirus there are no confirmed cases in Kansas and no cases under investigation in Ellis County”.

NORTHWEST BUSINESS CORRIDOR ENGINEERING SERVICES – DARIN MYERS, INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Interim County Administrator Myers discussed the Northwest Business Corridor Engineering contract with Driggs Design Group for professional engineering services. This project is the extension of U.S. Highway 183 Bypass around the northwest side of Hays North of I-70 on 230th Avenue then curves to the East at Feedlot Road and continues to U.S. 183 Highway. Excess sales tax from the 2013 sales tax project for the City of Hays is \$284,668. Commissioners were in favor of the contract with Driggs Design group for these professional engineering services.

A letter was signed by Chair Schlyer to the City of Hays requesting the release to transfer those funds for use on the engineering services of the Northwest Business Corridor Project.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR HIRING PROCESS – DARIN MYERS INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Interim County Administrator Myers asked the Commission about the hiring process for the County Administrator position. Commissioner Haselhorst had stated that he will be checking with the Kansas Association of Kansas (KAC) who had assisted with the hiring process when Phillip Smith-Hanes was hired. Commissioners felt that the process does need to get started. Myers was complimented on the job that he has been doing as Interim County Administrator. Myers had shared some information that he had given to the Commissioners on this hiring process.

Myers stated that County Counselor Jeter had reviewed the DSNWK Contract and found no concerns. The contract was signed by Chair Schlyer.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DARIN MYERS

Information has been received from the City of Hays with a public hearing scheduled on the I- 70 157 Exit annexation Project being held in the evening on February 13.

COUNTY COMMISSION REPORTS

Roths reported that he had attended Government Day in Topeka and got to see the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) new office. He attended the Kansas Republican Party Convention over the weekend.

Haselhorst discussed that he had participated in Government Day in Topeka. He is currently serving on the KAC Board and has been enlightened in the work that they do. He announced that his next KAC Board Member meeting will be held on February 21. He stated that KAC is currently not

assisted with the hiring of a County Administrator position as they do not have the staff to assist with this hiring process for the County's.

Chair Schlyer stated that he did not have a report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Schlyer stated that the meeting will adjourn at 6:39 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, February 10, 2020, Administrative Center, Commission Chambers, 718 Main Street, Hays, Kansas,

BOARD OF ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ROBERT "BUTCH" SCHLYER, CHAIR

DUSTIN G. ROTHS, COMMISSIONER

DEAN F. HASELHORST, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

DONNA J. MASKUS
ELLIS COUNTY CLERK